Recognition of Lithuania

Q. Mr. President, the United States has never recognized the forced incorporation of Lithuania into the Soviet Union. Now that Lithuania has declared its independence, the

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ON THE HOSTAGES

"And when the whole story comes out on this, you all are going to be very, very fascinated with the details."

United States seems to be moving tentatively toward full recognition. Is that because we're afraid of offending Mr. Gorbachev or don't want to alienate him?

A. It's because we want to see the evolution of the control of the territory there. And also we want to see peaceful resolution to this question.

Q. Well, do we still regard Lithuania as a captive nation, along with the ——

A. We might not use the word, but we never have regarded Lithuania as incorporated into the Soviet Union. That's been our policy...

ragua, we do have a responsibility to help democracy."

Matter of Lithuania

On the matter of the American hostages, the President said his Administration was "going around in back alleys" to pursue every avenue to get the hostages released.

He said if he had to do it over again he would still take the call from Iran that turned out to be a trickster posing as President Hashemi Rafsanjani of Iran.

Mr. Bush was cautious when asked if the United States would recognize the independence of Lithuania. The Soviet President, Mikhail S. Gorbachev, described the declaration of Lithuanian independence as "alarming."

Acknowledging that it has never been United States policy to recognize the annexation of Lithuania by the Soviet Union, the President said he could not yet offer diplomatic recognition to Lithuania because "there is a standard of control of one's terrority that I've been advised should guide this."

Asked about the Texas gubernatorial primary, in which questions of past drug use have become an issue, Mr. Bush noted that "in my view, if somebody used marijuana some time ago and is not into anything of that nature, why no, I don't think that should be used against them."